

Hekmatyar steps up war of words

CHARASAYAB, Afghanistan (AP) — Prime Minister-designate Guluddin Hekmatyar stepped up his war of words with the Islamic government Tuesday, warning it had one last chance to make peace. Mr. Hekmatyar remained steadfast in his demand that President Burhanuddin Rabbani's cabinet be dissolved and replaced with his. Mr. Rabbani has refused to accept Mr. Hekmatyar's proposed cabinet members. "War will be imposed if the illegal government in Kabul isn't replaced," Mr. Hekmatyar said in an interview at his heavily fortified headquarters 20 kilometres south of Kabul. Earlier this month, Mr. Hekmatyar announced that he was dismissing Mr. Rabbani's cabinet, formed by Afghanistan's rival leaders a year ago to replace the former communist regime after it collapsed. But Mr. Rabbani reversed the order, saying the prime minister-designate had overstepped his authority. Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar have bickered for weeks over the makeup of the new cabinet, part of a Pakistan-brokered peace and power-sharing agreement between them and six other rival chiefs. But they remain deadlocked over which faction will get the defence Ministry.

Najibullah wants to leave U.N. refuge, page 2



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times نشرت عن المؤسسة العربية الأردنية للأنباء

Volume 17 Number 5283

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1993, SHAWAL 22, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Assad: Syria working for Mideast peace

DAMASCUS (R) — President Hafez Al Assad has said Syria is working to push the stalled Middle East peace process to a "successful end." Mr. Assad, speaking at a banquet on Monday night for visiting Romanian President Ion Iliescu, blamed Israel for the lack of progress in previous rounds of talks. Contacts were now underway to push the process forward, he said. Syria, which paved the way for the peace process, will exert every suitable effort to advance this process and make it reach a successful end." Mr. Assad said in remarks published in official newspapers Tuesday.

Iliescu visits Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Romanian President Ion Iliescu flew in from neighbouring Syria Tuesday for a six-hour visit. It was believed this was the first ever to Lebanon by a Romanian head of state. He went immediately to the presidential residence for a meeting with his Lebanese counterpart, Elias Hrawi. Lebanese sources said the two would discuss bilateral relations and the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Iliescu was also to meet with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri before returning to Bucharest.

Bush due in Kuwait today

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwaitis have prepared an extravagant welcome for former U.S. President George Bush, but will be a day late in receiving it. The Kuwait Airways jet carrying Bush and his family to Kuwait made an emergency landing Monday at Houston International Airport because of wing damage, an airport spokeswoman said. No injuries were reported, and the Bushes returned to their Houston home without incident. They were to fly again to the emirate Tuesday morning on a new plane, said Andrew Maner, a Bush spokesman.

The casualties were evacuated by helicopter under cover of

3 Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Three Israeli soldiers were killed Tuesday by a roadside bomb in South Lebanon, and Israeli helicopters retaliated by rocketing Lebanese villages.

Two Israeli soldiers were wounded in the blast, according to security sources in South Lebanon.

The hostilities started about 11:30 a.m. (0830 GMT) when a remote-controlled roadside bomb exploded on a road between the villages of Qantara and Taibeh.

Two villages are west of the Good Fence Gateway leading from the Israeli border town of Metulla into the Jewish state's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon.

The sources said five Lebanese villagers were wounded in a retaliatory air strike on the village of Ghandouriyeh, four Israeli Cobras participated, they said.

Half an hour later, four Cobras fired two rockets on Majdal Selim and one on Shakra. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

These were the 10th and 11th Israeli air strikes in Lebanon this year.

The ambush was the bloodiest attack on Israeli forces in Lebanon since five Israeli soldiers were killed by a bomb last October.

The message was evacuated by helicopter under cover of



His Majesty King Hussein with British Prime Minister John Major in London Tuesday (AP photo)

U.S. reaffirms its commitment in talks with Jordanian delegation

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United States Tuesday reiterated its commitment to play the role of a full partner in the Arab-Israeli peace process, explaining that such a role means being an intermediate and a facilitator to bridge gaps between Arab and Israeli parties to the peace talks. Jordanian ambassador to the U.S. said after three hours of talks with American officials.

Dr. Fares Al Tarawneh said that State Department officials anticipated and stressed the need to achieve progress this year in the talks, which have been halted since December when Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to southern Lebanon.

The other Arabs involved in the talks — Syria, Lebanon and Jordan — want to resume but do not want to go without the Palestinians. The PLO is officially excluded from the peace process but in practice directs the Palestinian negotiators.

Mr. Al Tarawneh said that State Department officials anticipated and stressed the need to achieve progress this year in the talks, which have been halted since December when Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to southern Lebanon.

During the three-hour meeting, which was held at the invitation of the United States, Jordan reiterated its position that its decision on whether to return to the ninth round of the peace talks

would be taken in consultation with other Arab parties to the negotiations.

"Our decision will be part of the Arab decision," Dr. Tarawneh told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview Tuesday evening.

Foreign ministers of the Arab parties to the talks are scheduled to hold a coordination meeting in Damascus Friday after Washington talks between U.S. and Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese delegations.

The Cabinet announced Tuesday that Jordan's delegation to the Damascus parley will be headed by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and will include chief negotiator Abdul Salam Al Majali and Jordanian Ambassador to Syria Nayef Al Hadi.

Syrian-American talks were scheduled to take place Tuesday, while the Palestinians and Lebanese are expected to meet with State Department officials

Wednesday.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said a similar meeting between Israel and the U.S. was expected early next week.

The Palestinian delegation left for Washington Tuesday (see story below).

Dr. Tarawneh said that during the meeting Jordan also reiterated its insistence that any solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict should be comprehensive and progress should be achieved on all tracks of the negotiations.

Without going into details, Dr. Tarawneh said the two sides also discussed difficulties facing the resumption of the negotiations and means of overcoming them as well as issues concerning the Jordanian-Israeli track of the negotiations.

The Jordanian side to the meeting, which Dr. Tarawneh described as "positive," included

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinians head for Washington

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Palestinian delegation headed by the chief negotiator to the bilateral talks with Israel Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi, headed for Washington Tuesday for a final round of pre-April 20 talks with senior officials at the U.S. State Department.

The other Arabs involved in the talks — Syria, Lebanon and Jordan — want to resume but do not want to go without the Palestinians. The PLO is officially excluded from the peace process but in practice directs the Palestinian negotiators.

Mr. Al Tarawneh said that they do not see Resolution 242 as a reference point for all stages of the negotiations.

The second point that the Israelis are expected to stress in the pre-talks announcement is the renunciation of the use of expulsion as a measure to punish Palestinians, PLO officials said.

Key gestures by the Israelis are expected to be made before round nine of the talks convene in Washington on April 20.

According to Amman-based Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials, the Palesti-

nians are waiting for two key statements from the Israelis in announcements which are expected to be made public before April 20.

A concrete reference to a linkage between the interim and final stages of a Palestinian-Israeli peace settlement based on U.N. Resolution 242 is expected. This reference is expected to open the way for a draft agenda in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track.

Previously the Israelis had said that they do not see Resolution 242 as a reference point for all stages of the negotiations.

The second point that the Israelis are expected to stress in the pre-talks announcement is the renunciation of the use of expulsion as a measure to punish Palestinians, PLO officials said.

But the exact phrasing of the Israeli "renunciation" was still being worked out as Arab delegations met with State Department officials in Washington and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin prepared for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Some 150 of those Palestinians still in southern Lebanon as well

(Continued on page 5)

Kuwaiti comments seen as indirect pressure on Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian officials expressed surprise Tuesday over Kuwaiti comments that the emir and Saudi Arabia were not yet ready to normalise relations with Jordan and said it could be another form of pressure on the Kingdom.

"We cannot really understand the reasoning of the Kuwaitis, and we are surprised at the statements," said a senior official. "The only explanation we can come up with is that it is an indirect form of pressure on Jordan as we head for resumed peace talks (with Israel)," added the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Perhaps they (the Kuwaitis) want us to head in a specific direction and are using the issue of relations as leverage," the official told the Jordan Times. He

declined to elaborate.

The Kuwaiti comment that the emir is not willing to normalise relations with Jordan was made by its foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, in an interview published in the London-based Al Hayat newspaper.

"We and the Kingdom (of Saudi Arabia) have a unified position that normalising relations with Jordan needs time," Sheikh Sabah was quoted as saying.

The minister accused the Jordanian media of "slander and defamation" and offensive statements" against Kuwait, and said: "... even the Iraqi press is quoting the Jordanian press."

The reference was particularly surprising since the Jordanian press has been refraining itself from criticising Kuwait or any other Gulf state in the past several months.

Two Jordanian newspapers

have been in vain in the face of Kuwaiti and Saudi indifference, and His Majesty King Hussein has given up its endeavours, leaving it to mend the strain.

In a strongly-worded speech at the opening of an Arab labour conference here last week, the King called for Arab reconciliation but indicated that Jordan was not willing to bow to any pressure.

Saudi Arabia, one of the leading Arab partners in the anti-Iraq alliance, has been demanding a "public apology" from Jordan for its stand during the Gulf crisis. And the

Israel continues to take Palestinian land amid peace process

By Colleen Siegel
Reuter

HUSSAN, Occupied West Bank — On a stony hillside by a Jewish settlement, a Palestinian farmer pointed at fencing that looked newer than the rest of his chainlink perimeter.

"In December the settlers took away the old fence and put up a new one, taking 28 dunums of my land," said Abdul Aziz Sabatin, 65, from the nearby village of Hussan.

The gnarled farmer pointed at gashes in the hill, where he said his olive trees and grapevines were uprooted by the settlers of Betar Illit. He produced old deeds to back his claim to the land.

Palestinians call Mr. Sabatin's case part of a quiet, relentless Israeli campaign both to take Arab land and to prevent their crowded towns and villages from spreading over more of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Moshe Leibowitz, mayor of Betar Illit, would not discuss the new fence or Mr. Sabatin's land. He simply called him "a liar."

"To work out his problem he should get a lawyer and go to court. Why hasn't he," Mr. Leibowitz said.

The answer came from Mr. Sabatin's lawyer, Ali Ghuzlan, who represented Hussan villagers in an unsuccessful 1985 bid to reverse Israel's confiscation of 152 hectares of land.

"There is no way to stop them ... we have old deeds to the land, but nothing stands before the settlers' desire. There is nothing I can do for this man," Mr. Ghuzlan said.

Land lies at the heart of Middle East peace talks, suspended since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin expelled 415 Palestinians to Lebanon last December. A new round is scheduled for April 20 but it is not yet clear if Arabs will attend.

Palestinians say Mr. Rabin has simply put a better face on the previous rightwing Likud government's outspoken support for expanding Jewish settlement.

Under Mr. Rabin, Israel is negotiating a five-year period of Palestinian limited self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to be followed by a final settlement.

Palestinians fear their powers will be so limited during the interim period of "autonomy," that Israel's hold on the land will increase.

Israel indefinitely barred

Palestinians from the Jewish state last week after attacks on Israelis. That foreshadowed a fragmentation of the occupied territories by cutting them off from Arab East Jerusalem.

Raja Shehadeh, a lawyer advising the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said an Israeli campaign to take Arab land began in earnest in the late 1970s.

More than 100,000 Jews, many of whom claim the territories as their Biblical birthright, are now settled in protected enclaves among the nearly two million Palestinians.

Despite assurance by Mr. Rabin that settlement would be curbed, Arab land continues to disappear.

Israelis took or served confiscation notices on more than 300 hectares of Arab land since Mr. Rabin took office last July, says the Jerusalem Media and Communication Centre (JNCC), which does research for the Palestinian peace team.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami declined to check the JNCC list, saying cases like Mr. Sabatin's were impossible because the government had halted expansion of settlements.

The civil administration, Israel's occupation authority, confirmed 201 hectares of the land listed by the JNCC were now under Israeli control.

One hectare was taken for security reasons, 52 hectares for public and nine hectares were in dispute between a settlement and Palestinians who said they owned the land, the authority said.

It did not have data on how the remaining 139 hectares it acknowledged came to be under Israeli control. It had no record at all about Mr. Sabatin's plot.

A spokesman for the civil administration declined to say how much land Israel had taken during the 26-year occupation. "No-one will give you those numbers," she said.

"But Mr. Shehadeh suspects methods such as claiming open areas are 'state' land are about exhausted. Now, he says, Israel is turning to zoning to strangle development of heavily populated Arab areas."

Mr. Shehadeh fears Mr. Rabin, to prevent a Palestinian state, will continue settlement. He believes that is why Israel keeps almost all information about the occupied territories secret.



Young Somali girls orphaned during the civil war recite Koranic verses at an orphanage in Baidoa (AFP photo)

U.S. Marines detain Somali warlord's backer

MOGADISHU (R) — U.S. Marines briefly detained the financial backer of Somalia's most powerful warlord, a U.S. military spokesman said Tuesday.

Osman Otto, the financial backer, arms supplier and political ally of warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed, was arrested by the Marines in the southern port of Kismayu Sunday, he said. He was released Monday.

The spokesman declined to give further details.

Issa Mohammad Siad, a central committee member of General Aideed's Somali National Alliance (SNA), told Reuters: "The arrest was aimed at humiliating Osman Otto. We suspect they are trying to provoke us into doing something."

Mr. Otto was travelling to Kismayu with three armed guards when he was picked up by U.S. Marines and taken to the city, Mr. Siad said.

The SNA has been highly critical of U.S.-led forces in Somalia, who arrived last December to restore order and to get food relief to the starving.

"We need the help of fair and honest people in Somalia. UNITAF (U.S.-led forces in Somalia) came here without under-

standing the true problems of Somalia," Mr. Siad said.

He accused U.S.-led troops of attacking innocent people in the anarchic Horn of Africa country.

Moroccan forces, part of the 23-nation force in Somalia, had tortured and beaten a group of 13 camel herders on Friday near the Kenyan border, he said.

The camel herders, who are now at the SNA's office in the capital Mogadishu, told Reuters the Moroccans had taken them into custody after accusing them of being bandits.

The men said they had been tied and beaten by the Moroccan soldiers, who confiscated five weapons and took away 150 camels.

"They took our weapons and said we were bandits. We told them that we were just camel merchants and we needed to have the weapons to safeguard our property," said Sheikh Mohammad Yusef, one of the camel herders.

Several of the men were wearing bandages which they said covered wounds inflicted by the Moroccans.

A U.S. military spokesman said he had no details of the incident.

CAIRO (R) — Islamic scholars and intellectuals are mediating between the government and extremists to try to end Egypt's worst bout of political violence in a decade, one of the group said Tuesday.

Led by a popular Muslim television evangelist, the 25-strong group met Interior Minister Abdul Halim Musa last week after receiving word from militants they were ready to talk, said Fehmi Huweidi, a writer on Islamic affairs who joined the team.

It was the latest attempt to seek a political solution to the crisis since fighting which has killed more than 120 people flared last year.

The group, which is not affiliated to any organisation, raised

the possibility of allowing Islamic political parties and the freeing of militants detained without trial, Mr. Huweidi said.

It will visit militant leaders in Egypt's prisons during the next few weeks.

"This is a very critical point. The government does not want mediation to be taken as a sign of weakness and on the other hand the militants may think we represent the government," he said.

Islamic leaders and intellectuals known as sympathetic to "the Islamic wave" had been thinking of an initiative for two or three months," Mr. Huweidi said.

The group, which included Sheikh Metwalli Al Sharaawi, a national

celebrity for his television talk shows on religion.

They were encouraged about two weeks ago when lawyers defending militants on trial relayed a message that the extremists were ready to talk.

Publicly, the government has said it cannot talk to extremists who have wrecked the vital tourism industry with attacks on tourists in a drive to establish a purist Islamic state.

The authorities have launched an increasingly bloody series of raids to crush the militants, killing 29 of them last month alone.

In private, government officials met militants in the stronghold of Assuit last summer. In November

leaders from the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, a banned but influential political group, met a senior security official.

Sheikh Sharaawi, a scholar in his 80s who commands wide respect among religious Egyptians indifferent to politics, heads a four-man committee which is directing the group's contacts.

Mr. Huweidi said Mr. Musa expressed concern at last week's meeting that militants would not honour any agreement.

He added that contacts were still at an early stage but said:

"They have accepted our mediation. Mediation means both sides are ready to reach a compromise."

Lebanese defence minister says no Syrian withdrawal

BEIRUT (AP) — Defence Minister Moshe Dalloul, in a statement broadcast Tuesday, ruled out an early Syrian army pullout from Beirut, a move advocated by the United States to speed up the peace process in post-civil war Lebanon.

His statement, broadcast by several Beirut radio stations, Mr. Dalloul also said the Lebanese government would disarm anti-Israel guerrillas only when Israel abandoned a "security zone" it occupies in South Lebanon.

The statement, broadcast by the Arab League during an extraordinary session held by the Lebanese parliament in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea resort of Taif.

The pact called for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from its self-styled "security zone," a 1,100-square-kilometre enclave policed by 1,500 Israeli troops and 3,000 surrogate militiamen.

It also provided for the redeployment of Syria's 40,000 peacekeeping troops in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley two years after the ratification of political reforms that give Muslims an equal share of power with Christians.

The United States has also been pressing the Lebanese government to disarm the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, whose guerrillas are waging a war against the Israeli-held enclave in the south.

"I can guarantee that once Israel pulls out from the south, only Lebanese army weapons are allowed to remain in the region," Mr. Dalloul said. "We can't allow ourselves to become cops protecting the occupier. This is high treason."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Police seize 40 kilos of heroin

CAIRO (AP) — Acting on a tip, police on Monday dug out 40 kilogrammes of heroin worth \$8 million in a desert area on the Red Sea, the newspaper Al Gomhouria reported. The newspaper, quoting police sources, said the heroin was buried by a fisherman in a desert area at Marsa Alam, on the Red Sea. The fisherman, identified as Mohammad Saleh Mohammad, fled. The paper did not give further details but a columnist, writing in another Cairo newspaper, Al Akhbar, suggested the seized heroin may be part of a shipment discharged by a ship coming from Pakistan near the Egyptian coast between Quseir and Marsa Alam. Quoting Major General Essam Al Tarsawi, deputy director of the Egyptian anti-narcotic department, columnist Wagih Abu Zekry said a number of sacks of heroin have already reached the beach and that Egyptian police are exerting utmost efforts to collect the rest of the shipment. Mr. Abu Zekry did not identify the ship or elaborate on the circumstances that prompted the ship to drop the narcotics in this area. No other details were immediately available.

Kidnapped Algerian's body found in ditch

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian security forces have found the body of a kidnapped local official dumped in a ditch in the latest violence blamed on Muslim fundamentalists. Police sources, quoted by the official news agency APS, said Ammar Guendouzi was found late Monday near Bab Ezzouar University in Algiers. He had been killed by four bullets. Three kidnappers posing as plainclothes police seized Guendouzi, a father of four, at his home last Saturday, the sources said. The para-military gendarmeries said Monday two other civilians were seriously wounded in assassination attempts.

Pakistan faces protest over crackdown

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A government crackdown on Arabs living illegally in Pakistan has angered its mighty religious parties, sparked demonstrations nationwide and fired anti-American feelings.

"We are deeply disturbed, outraged and ashamed at what our government has done to our Arab guests," Khurshid Ahmad, deputy chief of Pakistan's small but powerful Jamaat-e-Islami (Party of Islam), said.

In the past week police have arrested hundreds of Arab nationals living in the rugged North-West Frontier Province that borders on war-torn Afghanistan.

They say they have become pariahs.

"Pakistan is talking to us like we are the enemy, like we are here to destroy their country,"

said Abdul Quddus, a Jordanian who said he will take the dream of creating an Islamic state to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Jamaat-e-Islami, an estranged partner in Pakistan's ruling coalition, has called for street demonstrations to protest the crackdown and American interference.

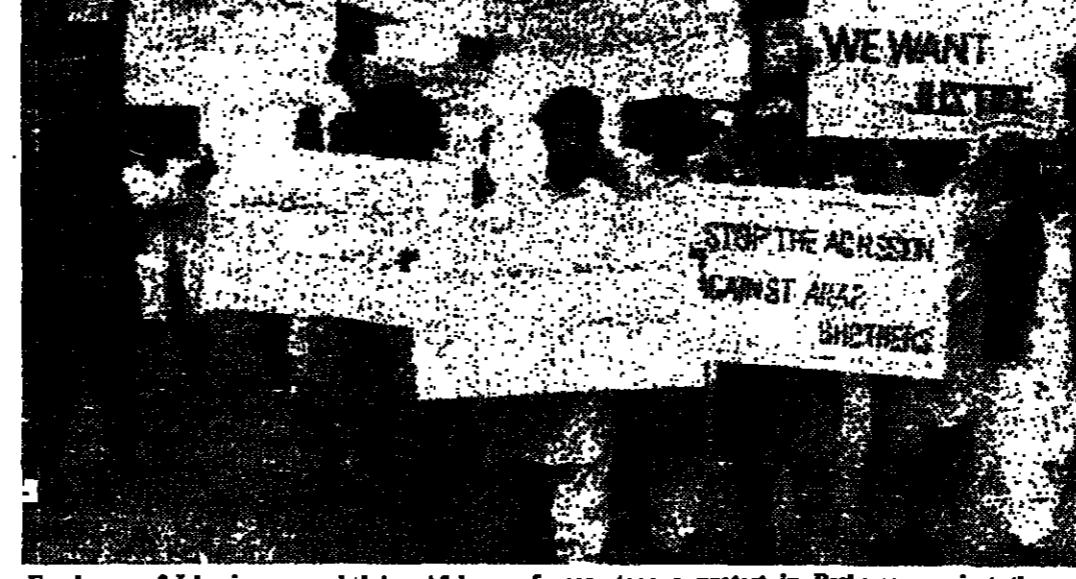
Clerics in mosques throughout the country have begun criticising the government policy, which they claim was imposed by Washington.

While Mr. Ahmad preached non-violence, he warned of a backlash to the crackdown.

Many Libyans arrested last month in Peshawar threw hand grenades at police before surrendering.

"If we try to push them to the wall it would be unfortunate for us if they resort to violence," Mr. Ahmad said.

But Pakistan is also under pressure from several fellow Muslim states, including Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia. Those governments fear that



Employees of Islamic groups helping Afghan refugees stage a protest in Peshawar against the government's crackdown on Arabs (AFP photo)

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605900
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Al Asmaa pharmacy 437053
Dr. Sabri Bodor 449362
Dr. Hisham Kanaan 791286
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shehla 752405
Dr. Adnan Al Zaghoul 958140
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fordsons pharmacy 778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy 437053
Naufal pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 637375
Yacoub pharmacy 644545
Shamsiati pharmacy 577650
Naufal pharmacy 623672
Naufal pharmacy 547632
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Sabri Bodor 449362
Dr. Hisham Kanaan 791286
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shehla 752405
Dr. Adnan Al Zaghoul 958140
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fordsons pharmacy 778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy 437053
Naufal pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 637375
Yacoub pharmacy 644545
Shamsiati pharmacy 577650
Naufal pharmacy 623672
Naufal pharmacy 547632
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and winds will be southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

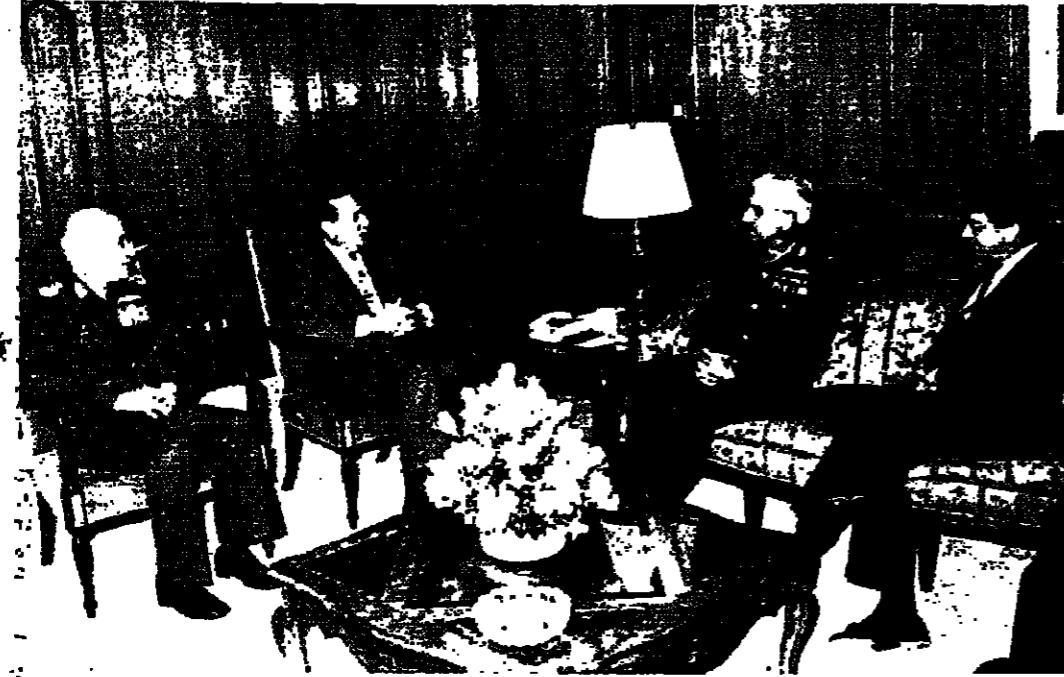
Min./Max. temp.

Amman 12 / 28
Aqaba 18 / 36
Deserts 10 / 30
Jordan Valley 14 / 32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 34, Humidity readings:

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 8138133
Khalidi Maternity 6442816
Akilah Maternity 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeissani 664171
Shmeissani Hospital 666131
University Hospital 6572719
Al-Ma'mun 66612731
The Islamic, Abdali 66612731
Al-Ahli, Abdali 66614640
Italian, Al-Muhajireen 7710103
Al-Bashir, J. Arafat 77511121
Army, Marks 89161115
Queen Alia 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680105



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday meets with Pakistan's Chief of Staff of the Air Force General Farouq Fairouz Khan

Premier receives Pakistan's army chief

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday received visiting Chief of Staff of the Pakistani Air Force General Farouq Fairouz Khan and the accompanying delegation. Sharif Zeid reviewed with Gen. Khan Jordanian-Pakistani relations and means of enhancing

cooperation and coordination in issues of mutual concern to the Armed Forces in both countries.

They also reviewed the role played by Armed Forces personnel from both countries in serving world peace and security, particularly in tension and conflict zones.

The two officials reviewed the

situation in the Middle East and highlighted the need for establishing a just and durable peace in this strategic part of the world.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Staff of the Royal Jordanian Air Force Brigadier Awni Bilal, the Pakistani ambassador and the Pakistani military attaché in Amman.

The two officials reviewed the

Germany to grant Jordan DM 6m for agricultural, veterinary fields

AMMAN (Petra) — Germany is to grant Jordan six million DM in financial and technical aid, to help it implement its development projects, according to two memoranda and one agreement signed by the two sides in Amman Tuesday.

Under a financial agreement, Germany will immediately make available to Jordan the sum of 3 million DM as a grant to finance studies and the cost of providing experts working on projects in Jordan.

The two notes, together worth 3 million DM, will cover agricultural development.

The first provides for technical assistance from Germany to help Jordan implement agricultural plans, improve production and

promote the work of agricultural extension services.

It stipulates that Germany will provide equipment and training of Jordanian technicians and other staff.

The second note is related to the work of the Jordan Centre for Veterinary Vaccine (JCVV) at Yajouz district.

The centre affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture.

The note said the technical assistance in this regard aims at promoting and modernising the centre by supplying experts to enable the facility to adapt to international standards.

In this respect, Germany will provide laboratories and specialists to help Jordanian personnel to produce monitor and work on

vaccines used in the veterinary profession.

The JCVV, which was established with help of the German Agency for Technical Development GTZ, began by producing 80 million doses of several vaccines for local and export markets, but later raised the production to 170 million doses of which only half are being consumed in Jordan.

According to JCVV officials, Germany has promised to provide technical assistance to the centre to help it in its plan to private.

The two notes and the financial agreement were signed by Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and German Ambassador to Jordan Heimrich Reiners.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister inaugurates Jordanian book exhibit

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Tuesday opened the Jordanian Exhibition of Books and Educational Aids at the International Expo Centre on the University of Jordan road.

Taking part in this exhibition are 50 Jordanian publishing houses.

On display are some 10,000 titles as well as educational aids.

Mr. Sharif toured the various sections of the exhibition and praised the high standard of Jordan's cultural production.

The minister stressed the importance of such exhibitions in

promoting Jordanian books and writers.

He pledged the ministry's support for such activities, saying that the ministry can help promote Jordanian books and writers through the various cultural programmes aired on radio and television and those transmitted by the Jordan News Agency.

The minister was accompanied by President of the Jordanian Writers Association Fakhri Kawa, who is also the Secretary General of the Arab Writers Union, and Director General of the Press and Publications Department Issa Al Jahmani.

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian citizen who threatened to commit suicide in Amman Tuesday turned himself in to police after hundreds of spectators gathered to watch him sit at the edge of the roof of a four-storey building near the Sports City. Police immediately took the man into custody to investigate the case at Al Rashid Police Station. Police sources refused to reveal any information about the identity of the man or the motives for attempting suicide, saying that investigations are still under way.

Weather chief heads for Geneva meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Meteorology Department Ali Abdalla Tuesday left for Geneva to take part in international conference on global climate. The conference will discuss effects of human activities on climate and the preparation of programmes and plans to measure the effects of climate on monitoring climatic changes and their impact on human resources and the environment. The conference will work out solutions for climatic and environmental problems and allocate financial aid to developing countries to help them honour their commitments and preserve the global climate and environment.

Jordan, Libya ratify agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Libya Tuesday exchanged instruments of ratification of four agreements concluded last year. The exchange took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The agreements cover trade, maritime traffic, tourism and training. Endorsing the instruments of ratification for Jordan was Foreign Ministry Secretary General Hussein Hamami, and for the Libyan government, Libyan ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Baoush.

Children's cultural festival to open

AMMAN (Petra) — Friends of the Children's Club in Amman will organise a week-long festival on April 24. The festival, entitled "The Kindergarten's Cultural Festival," includes book exhibitions, theatre performances, cultural and educational events, in addition to music recitals, songs and poetry.

Mr. Kilani, deputy executive director of RJ and director of the Technical Department, on the facilities available at the department.

In a statement to the Jordan Times, Mr. Kilani said the maintenance workshops enjoy an excellent reputation at the Arab and international levels qualifying them to win several contracts for maintenance projects on planes and jet bodies and engines of Arab and foreign airlines.

Mr. Balgez and his guest toured the RJ Technical Department installations and watched the maintenance work being carried out on four model JT 8D jet engines.

Mr. Beiliqi listened to a briefing

on the role of school supervisors and headteachers in the technical development of teachers, methods of educational supervision, preparing reports on school visits, and planning, training and evaluation of teachers' performance.

The RJ Technical Department achieved a net profit of \$10 million in 1992, and expects a \$15 million net profit this year.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جordan Times جريدة عربية مستقلة تصدر باللغة الإنجليزية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Issues for now and later

THE JUST-CONCLUDED Arab labour conference was an important event not only in terms of its political significance but also because of the weight of the nation's labour issues discussed by it. The fact that Amman has successfully hosted the Arab meeting, and Arab participation was near perfect suggests that inter-Arab relations can and will in the end rise above political bickering.

For instance, the Kuwaiti delegation's announcement that Kuwait would honour its commitment and pay compensation to all Jordanian and Palestinians workers who lost their livelihood and residency in the aftermath of the Gulf war is a commendable gesture on which more can be built.

The Arab discussions were also important in terms of the economic issues that were dealt with as well. Several labour-related subjects were addressed not only to bring the Arab World closer to an overall strategy but also in preparation for the International Labour Office's (ILO) conference due to begin in Geneva next June. The Geneva meeting will be yet another occasion to address the Palestinian labour conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In the wake of Israel's decision to seal off the occupied territories, the labour conditions in these areas have deteriorated considerably. It is estimated that the Palestinian economy loses \$3 million a day as a result of the Israeli siege of the occupied territories. Even Israeli economists are predicting dire consequences in the affected areas if the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip continues for much longer. Tens of thousands of Palestinian labourers are affected by the Israeli arbitrary decision to cut off the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israeli markets with which the Palestinian people had to establish economic relations and depend on in the wake of the occupation of their lands in 1967.

Labour experts believe now that no less than \$2.5 billion is needed to generate employment conditions for the unemployed Palestinians. This new dimension in the Palestinian conflict calls for urgent consideration and devising new strategy to deal with the Geneva ILO meeting and at other international levels.

There are of course many other Arab labour issues that call for immediate resolution. With unemployment in the Arab World on the rise and productivity on the decline there is a pressing need to deal with these critical topics. Left unresolved for much longer unemployment and unproductivity will be translated into difficult and ominous political crises that could threaten not only the directly affected Arab states but also the more developed among them. There is no way that the rich Arab states can be saved from the shock waves triggered by Arab underdevelopment. It would seem mutually beneficial therefore, to both the have and have-nots in the Arab World, to join forces in combating poverty and backwardness throughout the nation. No Arab labour strategy can in fact work unless it includes a clear effort to bridge the growing gap between the rich and poor Arab countries. This should be a top lesson from the Gulf war.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARIES

STATEMENTS BY the Kuwaiti foreign minister that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are in agreement that normalisation of relations between these two countries and Jordan would not happen in the near future because the Jordanian Press maintains attacks on the emirate did not bring any novelty, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. Such statements are something to be expected from Kuwaiti officials who have now shown their true nature to the world, said the daily. These officials seem to have discovered that their affiliation to their Arab Nation constituted an offence to them and preferred to transform their emirate into a gas station that enjoys no sovereignty and lacks the will power to take decisions of its own, the paper continued, with these statements, the Kuwaiti foreign minister has exposed his country's role as an agent for the major world powers in the Gulf region and showed beyond doubt that Kuwait is living under the illusion that the oil wealth has transformed the emirate into a major world power. What is worse, the Kuwaiti minister has tried through these statements, published by Al Hayat newspaper of London, to cheat readers into believing that his country's stand vis-à-vis Jordan was copied by Saudi Arabia said the daily. It said the Kuwaiti minister can issue statements at will, as he and others like him are excused for such a behaviour because they have lost all sense of national belonging and have nothing left except the feeling of shame and the loss of peace of mind.

THE ARAB labour conference which has just ended in Amman represented a ray of hope for Arab's future since it brought together the different Arab states for the first time since the Gulf conflict, said Al Dustour Arabic daily Tuesday. The deliberations and the conclusion gave evidence that the Arab states are determined to hold on to joint Arab action in dealing with the numerous problems plaguing their nation and are resolved to solve their differences in order to pave the ground for further cooperation, the paper said. The conference assumed added significance because it was held under very difficult regional circumstances and at a time when solidarity among the Arabs was not needed, the paper added. The deliberations were rich in ideas about joint action in labour-related affairs and the addresses reflected Arab states' adherence to their institutions, it pointed out. In referring to Jordan's role at the conference, the paper said the country played an instrumental part not only in creating an atmosphere marked by cooperation and understanding, but acted in the most practical manner to help the delegates arrive at a very successful conclusion.

Economic Forum

Protection under free markets

By Dr. Abdulla Malki

As a matter of rule, there should be no protection; industries must be fit enough to survive on their own. However, as a matter of exception, protection is conceivable but must be tentative and selective. Permanent protection does induce laxity and inefficiency; indiscriminate protection can very well lead to economic waste.

The classical view maintains that protection creates industries that produce poor quality goods at high costs that sell necessarily at high prices. This may be true, but it is strictly an abstraction. Practically, all countries have protected their domestic industries, directly or indirectly.

Despite all the ado about the advantages, or even the magic, of open markets, there is no empirical evidence that dismantling protection improves the quality of domestic goods and services.

Even when certain industries do improve their products and performance thanks to no protection from the state, there must be a study on domestic industries which perished, under the impact of the ensuing foreign competition, not in favour of other domestic industries but, more critically, in favour of foreign ones. The disappearance of domestic industries in these cases constitutes a net national cost. It may be a benefit from the standpoint of the world at large, but this is scarcely a consolation, or a

compensation, to the inflicted country.

The crucial point is that when we abolish existing protection, we do not start from scratch. In other words, the no-protection policy is applied to an existing national economy with ongoing (industrial, agricultural or service) enterprises some of which will inevitably be scrapped out. This entails a destruction of capital formation and therefore second thoughts are warranted before taking the new medicine. If we are to start from scratch, that is if we are to start a new economy, there will be no question about dropping the protection option.

Once upon a time, an argument was widely and wildly circulated in Jordan that the Jordanian dinar had been overvalued. The argument went to say that the dinar must therefore be devalued and that devaluation would lead to an economic revolution. Exports would soar skyhigh and imports would nosedive. The dinar had been devalued. Capital fled away, even Jordan's private foreign exchange reserves dried up, prices soared and the whole Jordanian economy moved to the verge of complete collapse and ended up at the door of the International Monetary Fund. After devaluation, and contrary to all theorisation, imports grew at a higher rate and exports expanded at a very

modest rate. And mind you, no study, until this very moment, has been conducted in Jordan to check whether the dinar was really overvalued, or undervalued, and by how much.

A similar story has been in the making during the last two to three years. The much publicised ongoing hypothesis holds that protection has spoiled and hurt domestic industries and therefore should be eliminated. But this hypothesis has never been investigated although it has served as a basis for Jordan's new free-import policy under which protection is being outlawed and phased out. If anything, one can cite glaring evidence showing that dismantling protection has been destroying a once very prosperous domestic industry, namely the cigarettes industry. A full-fledged open import policy will certainly uproot this national industry.

Free trade advocates are industrialised countries not the developing ones because the former are the ones which stand to win. Developing countries can neither win the battles of quality and prices nor have the capacity to serve the world markets as developed ones. In a world like this, protection is necessary for developing countries but it must be both selective (given to promising industries) and tentative (until they grow up).

Democracy alone can safeguard human rights, democracy

Following are recommendations to the U.N. World Conference on Human Rights, to be held in Vienna, Austria, on June 14-25, 1993, adopted at the Fifth Human Rights Conference of the International Academy for Development in Freedom in Sintra, Portugal, on Nov. 18-23, 1992.

In November 1992 a group of 30 persons with experience in the field of human rights met at the "International Academy for Development in Freedom" in Sintra, Portugal, to consider reports on various human rights issues with a view to formulating recommendations to the coming world conference on human rights. The participants in this seminar, mainly from developing countries, and drawn from international organs, governments, parliaments, political parties, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), reflected diverse perspectives on human rights.

The Sintra conference recognised the significant progress that has been made in the protection of human rights since the first World Conference on Human Rights in Tehran in 1988 as a result of the joint efforts of the United Nations, governments, NGOs, and the peoples of the world. On the other hand, it was agreed that serious violations of human rights are still prevalent throughout the world and that there is an urgent need to review the existing instruments and institutions at the national, regional and international levels and to consider the creation of new instruments in order to establish a world order in which human rights are effectively protected.

The Sintra conference welcomed the World Conference on Human Rights as it provides an opportunity for the community of nations and the peoples of the world, represented by governments and non-governmental organisations, to reaffirm their commitment to the advancement of human rights, to assess the present state of human rights throughout the world and to consider the creation of new instruments and institutions to deal with the flagrant and massive violations of human rights that threaten humankind.

In order to assist the world conference in its deliberations and decision-making the Sintra conference resolved to recommend that the world conference should:

1. Establish the post of special commissioner on human rights.

2. Affirm with new vigour the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples.

3. Extend the existing humanitarian conventions to cover all the victims of internal armed conflicts.

4. Give close attention to the implementation of existing norms for the persons belonging to particularly vulnerable groups.

5. Resolve that all regions adopt instruments and institutions that incorporate the principles of the international bill of human rights.

6. Resolve that these arrangements create institutions that provide individuals, groups and states with speedy and effective remedies for the enforcement of human rights.

7. Pay greater attention to the promotion of social, economic and cultural rights and to the enforcement of these rights;

8. Recommend that human rights be incorporated in the formulation of the social, economic and cultural programmes of states, regional bodies and international organisations.

9. Reserve particular attention to be paid in regional arrangements to human rights norms and that discriminatory practices in the areas of immigration, asylum and the treatment of refugees and displaced persons be in conformity with international standards and subject to international scrutiny.

10. Affirm that states of emergency should not result in the arbitrary denial of the obligations assumed in regional or in-

ternational human rights standards.

11. Adopt mechanisms to ensure that states accede to all international human rights instruments and take steps to ensure their incorporation into enforceable national legislation.

12. Urge states to adjust their political institutions or to establish new institutions in order to create democratic and legitimate systems of government.

13. Give priority to policies which strengthen the independence of the judiciary and the efficiency of the administration of justice.

14. Recommend that municipal and provincial law provides effective protection of human rights.

15. Urge all states to provide a legal environment in which independent non-governmental human rights organisations are encouraged to fulfil their task to contribute effectively to the protection and promotion of human rights.

16. Reaffirm that the respect of the freedom of thought, conscience and religion as a fundamental human right in all countries is a precondition for peace within and among nations.

17. Urge that all member states of the United Nations guarantee the freedom of opinion, free access to information and the media as well as full access to governmental information and archives.

18. Recommend for states to provide guidelines, assistance, prevention, treatment and sanctions by legal and other social means to address issues concerning domestic violence, abuse and mistreatment.

19. Resolve that all states support human rights education programmes and give full publicity to human rights and the international, regional and national instruments available for their enforcement.

Progress towards the achievement of these goals would serve as a fitting tribute to those many women and men who have sacrificed their lives for the creation of a better world.

1. Issues and policies for the next decade and their international implementation

The end of the cold war gives us the first opportunity this century to depoliticise the implementation of human rights norms in their entirety, as set forth in the international bill of human rights. Much progress has been made in the evolution of standards and mechanisms on many aspects of the protection of civil and political rights; there remains, however, a need for the effective implementation of these standards. Of equal importance is the further elaboration of these mechanisms for the more effective implementation of economic, social, and cultural rights. There is today, furthermore, an urgent need to reassess and reinforce the indivisibility of all human rights in practice.

2. The provision of effective implementation of existing norms and better protection for children, women and other particularly vulnerable groups such as migrant workers, the elderly, HIV or AIDS infected persons, the extremely poor, refugees, displaced persons and the disabled, among others.

3. Further progress is dependent upon the continued efforts on the part of U.N. member states and non-governmental actors in the field of education for the further promotion of human rights at all levels. In order to encourage respect for human rights in states, democracy at the national level should be paralleled at the international level starting with the U.N. system and with particular attention to the international financial institutions. Further progress is also dependent upon the recognition of the accountability and accessibility of the U.N. system to non-governmental organisations.

4. The improvement of regional structures and institutions

1. The importance of regional institutions and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights is hereby recognised and endorsed. Concrete actions should be taken to strengthen these regional institutions and mechanisms, where they exist, and encourage their establishment where they are non-existent.

2. Regional instruments and institutions for the protection of human rights should adopt the standards set by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments as the minimum standard for the formulation, establishment and implementation of their human rights norms.

3. Regional instruments and institutions should take into account the following considerations:

(a) The need to ensure prompt consideration of complaints

brought before them and in particular provide for emergency procedures to deal with urgent complaints.

(b) The need to provide for wide and unhindered access by individuals, groups and states.

(c) The competent political bodies of regional institutions should promote means of enforcement of the decisions made by the organs of human rights protection.

(d) They should not have the power to reverse the decisions reached by the regional protection bodies, but should instead seek to enforce them.

(e) The binding character of these decisions and their publication are essential.

5. The competent political bodies of regional institutions should study the possibility of creating new organs or of enhancing the competence of existing organs of protection in the field of economic, social and cultural rights.

6. The dissemination of proper information, creation of awareness about existent instruments and mechanisms of human rights protection are an essential condition for human rights protection.

7. Cooperation between regional institutions in the field of human rights bodies should be encouraged to advance mutual understanding and exchange of ideas and experiences.

8. Regional institutions should take into account human rights considerations in the formulation of their economic, social, cultural, and other policies and programmes for implementation within the region.

9. The problems of racial discrimination and xenophobia with their particular manifestations in discriminatory policies regarding immigration, asylum and refugees are recognised, and require that regional instruments and institutions in concert with the United Nations work to eliminate these problems.

10. Increasing numbers of displaced persons require regional and international systems that guarantee protection.

11. Widespread violations of human rights under states of emergency require more comprehensive norms and guidelines to be developed for the preservation of human rights at the regional level.

12. Nations have sometimes deviated from universal human rights standards in the name of regional particularities or religious, cultural and traditional values. In such situations universal norms should prevail.

13. Particular recent developments have underlined the vital role that non-governmental organisations play in the promotion of human rights throughout the world. It is time to formally recognise the role and status of NGOs in international and regional human rights procedures and institutions.

14. The importance of regional institutions and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights is hereby recognised and endorsed. Concrete actions should be taken to strengthen these regional institutions and mechanisms, where they exist, and encourage their establishment where they are non-existent.

15. Increasingly throughout the world, the prevailing forms of government are nominal democracies and a variety of authoritarian regimes. Authentic democracy is the form of government that allows and guarantees the full participation as well as the human development of people. Therefore, the existence of democracy is a necessary condition for the enjoyment of human rights.

16. Implementation of these rights requires the governments to adjust their political institutions and to create the conditions for political pluralism, including the free development of political parties and grassroots organisations. The subordination of the military to civilian authority, and the political participation of the people are also necessary. In other words, the authorities in a democratic government must have legitimacy with the people.

17. Make no mistake about it. These people are dead serious about getting rid of Arabs.

tions such as the post of a human rights Ombudsman evidence an attempt to enhance the protection of such fundamental rights. It is essential that such entities operate independently in the investigation of human rights violations and are able to rely on the governmental authorities for the appropriate prosecution of those alleged to be responsible. The government must provide a legal environment in which non-governmental human rights organisations can function and obtain the necessary financing to carry out their activities.

6. Freedom of thought, conscience and religion is a fundamental human right. Such beliefs have historically informed the content of international human rights norms. Nonetheless, belief structures should not be allowed to replace freedoms guaranteed by existing human rights standards not be used as a pretext for the failure to implement such rights.

7. Restrictions on the media or on the access to information, or secrecy laws, or censorship or propaganda constitute a serious impediment to the exercise of basic human rights. Therefore, governments should adopt the requisite policies to guarantee free access to information and the media, and full access to governmental information and archives.

8. Human rights abuses also occur within the family. Therefore, governments and the United Nations should address issues concerning domestic violence, abuse and mistreatment. It is necessary for states to provide guidelines, assistance, prevention, treatment and sanctions by legal and other social means.

LETTERS

The West's arrogant hypocrisy

To The Editor:

As American warplanes once again launch an attack on what appears to be a civilian target in Iraq, one can only imagine how different things would be if Iraq could arbitrarily designate a "no-fly" zone in the United States, or if U.N. inspection teams were authorised, over the objections of the White-House, to inspect every shred of paper in the Defense Department in preparation for the destruction of the largest arsenals of nuclear and chemical weapons in the world's history.

Economy

France cuts key interest rate

PARIS (R) — France cut one of its main interest rates Tuesday and the government predicted that the cost of money would continue falling in coming days as its plan to revive the stalled economy takes hold.

The Bank of France lowered its emergency repurchase rate, which forms the ceiling for wholesale money market rates, to 10 per cent from the 12 per cent level imposed to defend the franc during the campaign for last month's general elections.

The vote swept the Socialists from power and gave the centreright a powerful ruling majority. The new government has promised pro-business measures, including emergency spending on defence and public works.

Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said the rate cut reflected financial markets' confidence in his government's plan to pull the economy out of its rut.

Mr. Balladur noted that since he was appointed on March 29, the rate on three-month loans had fallen by more than 1.5 percentage points to nine per cent, cutting the gap with German rates in half.

The central bank said it was able to cut the official rate because of the firmness of the franc against the German mark and the decline in money market interest rates, which had already fallen below 10 per cent.

In the absence of the comprehensive social safety net that

had severely undermined earlier widespread support for the radical

U.N. body predicts growing unemployment in ex-East Bloc

GENEVA (R) — United Nations analysts Wednesday predicted growing unemployment across the former communist countries of Europe in 1993 and urged the West to focus aid on preserving popular support for reform.

The analysts, from the U.N.'s Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), also called on Western governments to keep their markets open for goods from the East and use trade as a stimulus for recovery in both sides of the continent.

In all the former communist economies "unemployment is expected to start rising rapidly as privatisation gets under way and bankruptcy laws are brought into effect," the ECE said in its annual economic survey of Europe.

In the East, unemployment

existed under the old system, a surge in the numbers losing their jobs "would inevitably increase the dangers of social and political instability," the ECE declared.

The survey said overall output had declined by an average 10 per cent across eastern Europe in 1992, bringing the aggregate fall since the revolutions of 1989 to 30 per cent.

In the former Soviet Union, it said, the slump in production had accelerated to some 20 per cent, double the figure for 1991 and bringing the total drop since 1989 to 35 per cent.

The ECE said unemployment in western Europe, standing at around 10 per cent at the end of last year, was also likely to rise significantly in 1993.

In the East, unemployment

al political and economic change under way over the last four years, the U.N. agency declared.

At the end of 1992, some 6.5 million people were registered as unemployed in eastern and central Europe, with a further one million in the former Soviet Union.

on the agenda.

It was compiled before a summit in Vancouver earlier this month at which U.S. President Bill Clinton promised Russian President Boris Yeltsin an aid package worth \$1.6 billion.

The survey said there had been signs in 1992 that the decline in former Soviet allied states was beginning to bottom out and that in three — Poland, Hungary and the former Czechoslovakia — recovery had begun.

But these figures were almost certainly too low and masked "labour hoarding" in state industries — retaining workers with little to do.

In Russia, according to the ECE, the number of people officially classified as living in poverty, or below the minimum subsistence income, more than doubled in 1992 and now included 29 per cent of the population of some 150 million.

This had been largely fuelled by growth in exports to western Europe encouraged by agreements with the European Community (EC) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

But recent EC action against steel imports from eastern Europe and other Western trade restrictions "not only put that recovery at risk but also threaten to undermine the reform programmes as well," the survey declared.

Japan approves stimulus package to double growth

TOKYO (R) — Japanese economic ministers Tuesday approved a 13.2 trillion yen (\$117 billion) economic stimulus package which they hope will double the growth rate and slash the country's trade surplus.

Investors showed their approval by sending Tokyo stocks soaring by 4.32 per cent. The Nikkei stock average closed above the 20,000 level for the first time since March 1992.

"The effect of the stimulus package will not start showing up until summer but investors are buying now, fearing it may be too late after the measures start bearing fruit," said Kenzo Doi at Kokusai Securities.

The government's largest-ever such package was in line with proposals the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had unveiled earlier in the day.

"There are positive signs in parts of the economy, but it is still in a severe condition and there is concern that the recent sharp appreciation of the yen will have a major impact," the LDP said in a statement announcing the package.

The yen hit a record high of 112.60 against the dollar Tuesday.

The LDP wants the government to complete a supplementary budget needed to put the package into effect in a couple of weeks. Mr. Mitsuzuka said: "We want parliamentary approval of the supplementary budget as soon as possible after the holiday season (from late April to early May)," he said.

This will require cooperation from opposition parties who have the power to delay the bill.

THE ITALIAN WOMEN OF AMMAN

will hold their April monthly general meeting on April 14th at the Philadelphia Hotel at 4:30 p.m.

Guests are welcome

Arab investment agency needs more capital

DAMASCUS (R) — The head of the Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (AIGC) said Tuesday it needed greater financial resources to meet demands on it exceeding \$1 billion.

AIGC Director General Mamoun Ibrahim Hassan told Reuters in an interview the resources of the corporation, which guarantees Arab investors against political and military risks in Arab countries, were \$187 million.

Lack of capital had forced it to stop operations in some Arab countries, he said.

Mr. Hassan, in Damascus for the annual meetings of Arab development funds and financial institutions starting Tuesday, said AIGC had suffered from a shortage of finance since 1988.

The Kuwait-based corporation was established in 1975 to encourage Arab investment in Arab countries by providing guarantees against the risk of wars, confiscation, nationalisation, civil wars, coups and other risks resulting from political or economic changes.

Mr. Hassan said studies prepared for the establishment of the corporation had suggested a capital requirement of \$350 million but only \$76.5 million was made available. Reserves and

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Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound*	1.5465	1.5453
Deutsche Mark	1.5920	1.5947
Swiss Franc	1.4630	1.4658
French Franc	5.3915	5.3863 **
Japanese Yen	112.75	113.33
European Currency Unit	1.2213	1.2220 **

* USD per STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 13/4/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.15	3.18	3.43
Sterling Pound	5.62	5.62	5.62	5.75
Deutsche Mark	6.18	7.87	7.37	6.68
Swiss Franc	5.06	4.93	4.75	4.43
French Franc	9.00	8.75	8.37	7.87
Japanese Yen	3.20	5.20	3.25	5.34
European Currency Unit	8.95	6.75	8.57	7.87

Interest rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 13/4/1993

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	336.90	6.65	Silver	5.87	.090

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 13/4/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6860	0.6880
Sterling Pound	1.0583	1.0636
Deutsche Mark	0.4297	0.4318
Swiss Franc	0.4678	0.4701
French Franc	0.1270	0.1276
Japanese Yen*	0.6035	0.6065
Dutch Guilder	0.3825	0.3844
Swedish Krona	0.0908	0.0913
Italian Lira*	0.0439	0.0441
Belgian Franc	0.02089	0.02099

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 13/4/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8010	1.8400
Lebanese Lira*	0.05865	0.04950
Saudi Riyal	0.1826	0.1841
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.2300
Qatari Riyal	0.1859	0.1850
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2160
Omani Riyal	1.7520	1.7800
UAE Dirham	0.1859	0.1880
Greek Drachma*	0.3135	0.3345
Cypriot Pound	1.4200	1.4400

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Markets*

Index	11/4/1993	Close	12/4/1993	Close
All-Share	194.37	193.88		
Banking Sector	135.23	134.76		
Insurance Sector	214.46	214.01		
Industry Sector	276.34	276.16		
Services Sector	255.84	255.14		

* December 31, 1992 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1,000 costs	1.2603/08	Canadian dollar
	1.5920/30	Deutschmarks
	1.7890/90	Dutch guilders
	1.4620/30	Swiss francs
	32.74/78	Belgian francs
	5.3785/83	French francs
	155.81/160	Italian lire
	113.25/30	Japanese yen
	7.5190/5290	Swedish crowns
	6.7750/7850	Norwegian crowns
	6.1200/1300	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5525/35	
One ounce of gold	\$336.90/337.30	

Hanoi rejects report of secret document on American PoWs

HANOI (R) — Vietnam Tuesday flatly rejected a report suggesting that it lied over the number of American prisoners it was holding shortly before the U.S. withdrawal from Indochina in 1973.

It also denied it was still holding any prisoners.

"Vietnam totally denies that ill-intentioned fabrication," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"The truth is that in 1973, after the Paris (peace) agreements were signed, Vietnam returned all American prisoners captured in Vietnam."

The issue, which flared up with disclosure of a document found in Moscow archives and said to be from the North Vietnamese army, looked likely to delay efforts to reconcile Hanoi and Washington 18 years after the Vietnam war ended.

The New York Times reported Monday that a 1972 report to the Soviet Communist Party politburo by a North Vietnamese general said Hanoi was holding hundreds more prisoners than it acknowledged — 1,205 when officials were saying the number was 368.

The ministry said that in searches for U.S. servicemen missing in the 11-year war, over 500 sets of remains had been returned to the United States.

Experts had investigated more than 70 "live sighting reports" — instances in which someone thought he or she saw an American — and 135 "discrepancy cases," on which there was conflicting evidence.

Clinton walks fine line in clash with Republicans

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton is talking tough with Republicans in hopes of overcoming a political stand-off in Congress that threatens his \$16.3 billion jobs programme.

But his apparent willingness also to seek a compromise is encouraging some Washington insiders to recall former President George Bush's charge during last year's campaign that Mr. Clinton waffles in a pinch. Other see his tactics as good politics.

In his harshest attack yet, Mr. Clinton Monday accused his Republican foes of making America's children "hostages" in the political fight because \$300 million of the money in the stimulus programme would be used to immunise youngsters.

More tough talk was expected Tuesday night when Mr. Clinton speaks on the country's economic problems at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Headquarters in Washington.

On Monday, Mr. Clinton, pointing at children gathered on the White House lawn for an annual Easter egg roll, said, "look out there at those kids. They are the hostages of the Senate filibuster."

Republicans in the Senate are using a legislative stalling tactic known as a filibuster, by which one party or group of legislators can hold up the passage of a bill by refusing to yield the floor indefinitely.

The Republicans contend that much of the money in the stimulus bill would pay for so-called "pork-barrel" projects and do little to create jobs in a \$6 trillion economy.

"Pork barrel" is slang for the distribution of government appropriations according to political patronage.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole shot back, "it's a shame President Clinton has resorted to using the children as the Easter egg hunt as a partisan political backdrop to hatch a new excuse for his so-called stimulus package."

In a statement issued by his office Sen. Dole said Mr. Clinton should tell the children "that he wants to saddle them with bigger deficits instead of paying for this new immunisation spending" and other elements of his stimulus plan.

When asked if he would revise the plan to meet Republican objections, Mr. Clinton said: "Let's not talk about compromise."

"This is about whether you want to reduce the unemployment rate in America by another half a percentage point for a very modest amount, and they don't ... they want more people to stay out of work," he said.

A short time later, however, White House spokesman George Stephanopoulos told reporters: "If it's going to take certain adjustments to spring the jobs bill (Clinton) is prepared to make them."

"The result shows there is no evidence of any American prisoners being held or living freely in Vietnam," the statement said.

"This reality proves that the report published in the New York Times is without foundation."

Vietnam has long maintained it had freed all the Americans captured during the war with the release of 591 U.S. prisoners in "operation homecoming" in 1973.

Vietnamese officials said the purported North Vietnamese report was a fresh instance of U.S. groups opposed to U.S.-Vietnamese reconciliation trying to derail the process.

"Hostile circles in the U.S. want to raise issues to obstruct the administration easing U.S. sanctions against Vietnam in international financial organisations," one said.

In Washington, U.S. officials said it would be the first issue raised by a senior U.S. envoy, General John Vesey, in two days of talks with Vietnamese officials next weekend.

Vietnamese government sources said the general reported to have written the document, General Tran Van Quang, could not have done so because he was commander of a military zone in central Vietnam in 1972 and was not a position to make a comprehensive report about American prisoners.

Gen. Quang, now head of the Vietnam Veterans' Association, was not available for comment.

An official at the association said of the report attributed to

Gen. Quang: "This fabrication comes out ... in order to obstruct the process of normalisation of relations between the two countries."

President Bill Clinton has continued a policy of previous administrations, setting as a condition for lifting the 29-year-old U.S. economic embargo against Hanoi the fullest possible accounting of missing Americans.

But Mr. Clinton is also under pressure from business groups and most of Washington's Western allies to lift the sanctions.

Former U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski told the New York Times he believed it was likely Vietnam shot "hundreds of American officers" in a Vietnam war massacre like the Katyn Woods slaughter of World War II.

Mr. Brzezinski told the disbeliever of a newly found document which suggests that Hanoi held 1,205 U.S. prisoners of war in 1972 — three times more than it ever admitted to having — that he thought the document was authentic, the Times said in Tuesdays edition.

The former Carter administration official told the newspaper that after studying the document, which was found by researcher Stephen Morris in Communist Party archives in Moscow, he believed that "the great likelihood is that the Vietnamese took hundreds of American officers out and shot them in cold blood, in a massacre like the one in the Katyn Woods."

He was referring to the World War II massacre, when more than 4,500 Polish officers were killed in a forest near Smolensk. Mikhail Gorbachev admitted in 1990 that the Soviet secret police were responsible.

Mr. Brzezinski noted that he had no concrete evidence to support his belief the U.S. prisoners were massacred.

He said he was struck by three things in the document:

— Its style, which corresponds to other reports of a similar nature.

— The number 1,205, which he said corresponded to the approximate number of men the United States expected to be returned and

— What he called "the Katyn-like classification system."

"At the Katyn Woods they specially selected members of the Polish aristocracy," said Mr. Brzezinski, an expert on Soviet affairs. "And here you have the same kind of ominous pattern, with prisoners being classified according to their degree of intransigence in refusing to condemn the war. They say the officers come from rich families, which explains their attitude."

Mr. Brzezinski speculated that Vietnam concealed the existence of the POWs after the peace agreement because they feared the United States would renew fighting, or because Hanoi planned to seek financial reparations, the Times said.

"I think the chances are very small that any more than a few might have been kept alive until now," he said.

Mr. Brzezinski told the World

U.N. brings aid, makes new bid to evacuate Srebrenica refugees

SARAJEVO (R) — United Nations officials made a new attempt to evacuate Muslims from Srebrenica Tuesday and strongly criticised the Serbs whom they blame for killing 56 people in an artillery barrage on the Bosnian town.

As aid trucks reached the besieged town, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said the organisation's food stocks former Yugoslavia were almost exhausted and aid convoys into Bosnia-Herzegovina must be suspended.

"Unless something is done about it, we're going to run out in a few days," said UNHCR spokeswoman Sylvana Foa in Geneva.

A NATO spokesman in Vicenza, northern Italy, said alliance fighters flew 30 sorties over Bosnia Monday, the first day of enforcing a U.N. no-fly zone over the former Yugoslav Republic.

In Sarajevo, UNHCR officials lashed the Bosnian Serbs for their role in the attack on Srebrenica which erupted minutes after the operation to police the air exclusion zone began.

But the deputy commander of the Bosnian Serb army, General Milan Gvero, accused Srebrenica's Muslim defenders of improvising the explosions to convince the U.N. the Serbs had shelled the town, which is in eastern Bosnia.

The Muslims' intention is to focus media attention on Srebrenica and present it to the world as a place under threat by the Serbs," he told Reuters.

Srebrenica was quiet overnight and on Tuesday morning, U.N. officials said, but they were in no doubt about who carried out Monday's attack, which they said also seriously wounded 73.

UNHCR spokesman John MacMillan said: "In their apparently pathological drive to acquire territory the Serbs are willing to kill anybody to achieve



A Dutch F-16 jet fighter prepares to take off from the Italian base in Villafraanca to cross into Bosnia airspace in the first direct Western military intervention in the republic's year-old communal war (AP photo).

their ends."

Larry Hollingworth, UNHCR chief of operations in Sarajevo, who has visited Srebrenica, said: "I hope that the military commander who ordered the firing on Srebrenica burns in the hottest corner of hell."

Recent U.N. attempts to evacuate refugees have failed because authorities have insisted on the use of covered trucks after stones were thrown at a recent convoy, injuring six women.

Tuesday's convoy went in with covered trucks and it was hoped to continue the operation in which the U.N. hopes to bring out 15,000 people from Srebrenica.

U.N. Protection Force spokesman Barry Frewer said UNPROFOR Commander General Lars-Erik Wahlgren had written to Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic expressing revulsion and outrage at the attack on Srebrenica.

"This is a disastrous development for a situation rapidly deteriorating despite promises that a political solution will be pur-

sued," the letter said.

Mr. Frewer said UNPROFOR had evidence Bosnian forces in Srebrenica had fired tank rounds at Serb positions outside town shortly before the Serb bombardment but Mr. MacMillan said there was no firm evidence of this.

In Paris, French Defence Minister Francois Leotard confirmed the commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, General Philip Morillon, would be recalled by the end of the month.

Asked by an Europe 1 Radio interviewer whether Gen. Morillon would still be in his post in May, Mr. Leotard said: "No."

He said the recall was a routine matter and denied that Gen. Morillon was being disciplined for having taken initiatives to rescue the besieged Muslim population of Srebrenica without consulting the military hierarchy.

Mr. Leotard rejected an appeal by intellectual Andre Glucksmann to keep Gen. Morillon in place as a gesture of support for his humanitarian action in former Yugoslavia.

Hani suspect appears in court

BOKSBURG, South Africa (R) — A white right-winger accused of shooting dead black South African leader Chris Hani appeared in court Tuesday and pledged to pursue reforms with greater determination if he wins a key referendum on April 25.

"If the people shows trust in us, we will carry out a firmer reform policy," he told reporters on arrival in Novokuznetsk. "I am also thinking, but to a lesser extent, about the fact that my personal fate is being decided on April 25."

Mr. Yeltsin, 62, declined to forecast the results of the referendum, which includes questions on confidence in him and his economic policy and on early elections for both the presidency and the rival parliament.

Mr. Yeltsin, visiting Russia's main coalfield to drum up support in advance of the referendum, said the government was prepared to pursue a programme to social measures for coal-miners.

Meanwhile Parliamentary Chairman Ruslan Khatsalov said Tuesday that the Russian parliament would never ratify the START-2 disarmament treaty while Andrei Kozyrev remained foreign minister.

Mr. Yeltsin, 40, was not formally charged during the hearing 40

kilometres from Johannesburg. He was ordered held in custody pending investigations. The prosecution said it would have its case prepared by May 12.

There was a brief flurry outside the court — ringed by heavily-armed police — when a white man pulled a gun during an apparent argument with a photographer. Police intervened and hustled the man into his car.

Police spokesman Brigadier Frans Malherbe said the man, who had a foreign accent, had drawn a "small little pistol" during the row. He was not arrested and ordered to leave the area.

Another white man waved a gun from the window of his pickup truck and shouted: "This is not Hani's house." He was also bundled away by police.

Mr. Malherbe said Mr. Hani's death must mark the beginning of a process that would bring to an end white minority rule.

"Anger at the shooting of South African Communist Party leader Chris Hani outside his home has led to attacks on whites. Four have been killed since he was shot Saturday.

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